



# **South Sudan –** Complex Emergency

JUNE 13, 2023

# SITUATION AT A GLANCE

12.4

Population of South Sudan

UN - November 2022

**9.4** MILLION

Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2023

UN - November 2022

7.8

Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity in 2023 Lean Season

IPC - November 2022

2.2

Number of IDPs in South Sudan

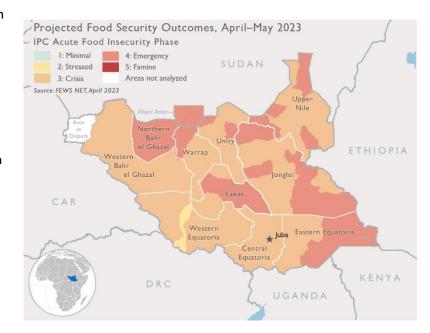
UNHCR - January 2023

104,400

Number People Who Have Fled Sudan to South Sudan Since April 16

UN - June 2023

- More than 114,200 people have fled Sudan to South Sudan since the onset of hostilities in Sudan in mid-April, exacerbating needs in already vulnerable areas of the country, the UN reports.
- State/PRM and USAID/BHA announced nearly \$66 million to support Sudan conflict-affected individuals in South Sudan in mid-May.
- Emergency—IPC 4—or worse levels of acute food insecurity will continue across the country through September, FEWS NET projects.
- USAID/BHA health partners are responding to an outbreak of hepatitis E virus in Western Bahr el Ghazal State's Wau town.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$466,335,861
For the South Sudan Response in FY 2023	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$43,995,000
For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6	Total	\$510,330,861

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

# **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

# More Than 114,200 People Flee Crisis in Sudan to South Sudan

More than 114,200 people—including 105,600 South Sudanese returnees and 8,600 Sudanese and other refugees—have crossed the South Sudan–Sudan border across 15 points of entry (PoE) in northern South Sudan since April 16, according to the UN. Relief actors report that many people crossing the border likely do not register with UN agencies. The majority of registered arrivals—approximately 85,200 individuals—had entered South Sudan via Joda PoE in Upper Nile State's Renk County, as of June 13. More than 13,000 people have also crossed the border at the Panakuach PoE in Unity State's Pariang County.

The immediate needs of newly arrived individuals include food, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, as well as transportation assistance for onward travel to other locations in South Sudan, relief actors report. Individuals from vulnerable groups—including women and children—have crossed the border in larger numbers since late April, according to the UN. Relief actors have raised concerns regarding overcrowding and poor sanitation at the Renk transit center located nearly 40 miles south of the border, where relief actors direct new arrivals to after crossing at the Joda PoE. Conditions at the center may deteriorate as the number of arrivals is expected to increase and as the April-to-November rainy season progresses.

In coordination with the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU), South Sudan's current governing body, at least 65 humanitarian organizations—including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners—are mobilizing resources to assist crisis-affected refugees and returnees in the country. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) project that up to 180,000 South Sudanese returnees and 60,000 Sudanese and other refugees will arrive in the country between May and October. In response, IOM and UNHCR released an Emergency Response Plan on May 4 requesting more than \$96 million to deliver life-saving assistance to people in South Sudan who have fled the crisis in Sudan.

### US Announces Nearly \$66 Million for Sudan Crisis Response in South Sudan

During the week of May 15, the United States announced \$245 million in humanitarian assistance through State/PRM and USAID/BHA to support Sudan and neighboring countries experiencing the impacts of the crisis. The new funding includes nearly \$143 million from State/PRM and \$103 million from USAID/BHA. For conflict-affected individuals in South Sudan, State/PRM will provide nearly \$44 million for core relief items and health, protection, shelter, WASH, and other life-saving assistance. USAID/BHA will provide \$22 million to support emergency food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, WASH, and other forms of assistance in South Sudan. In addition, the UN has allocated \$8 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the humanitarian response in South Sudan.

### Food Assistance Needs Projected to Increase Through the Lean Season

Widespread Emergency—IPC 4—or worse levels of acute food insecurity are likely to persist across South Sudan between May and September, necessitating a scale-up of food assistance to prevent more severe outcomes, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.<sup>3</sup> FEWS NET projects that the combined effects of heavy rains and subsequent flooding, poor macroeconomic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC I—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

conditions, and widespread violence will exacerbate acute food insecurity across South Sudan through the April-to-September lean season. During this period, many households will have limited access to food stocks, staple food prices will remain high, and income-earning opportunities will remain limited. Emergency levels of acute food insecurity will persist across many counties in Upper Nile and parts of Greater Bahr el Ghazal region—encompassing the contested Abyei Administrative Area and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, and Western Bahr el Ghazal states—through September. During the peak of the rainy season between July and September, some households in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area's (GPAA) Pibor County, Jonglei State's Fangak and Canal/Pigi counties, and Upper Nile's Fashoda and Panyikang counties are expected to face Catastrophe—IPC 5—conditions due to flooding and conflict.<sup>4</sup>

The influx of refugees and returnees from the Sudan crisis will likely further strain limited local resources. The Sudan crisis has measurably disrupted South Sudanese markets since late April, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. The prices of food commodities and other goods in northern South Sudan, largely imported from Sudan, have increased up to 60 percent, according to UNHCR. The cost of a basic food basket has risen by an estimated 28 percent across South Sudan since April, according to an early May Joint Market Monitoring Initiative report.

With USAID/BHA support, WFP is responding to the needs of new arrivals from Sudan by providing hot meals to more than 2,000 people daily and screening women and children for malnutrition at the Renk transit center. WFP is also working to address food insecurity countrywide. The UN agency assisted more than 1.9 million people in South Sudan with food and nutrition assistance in March, including more than 14,900 metric tons (MT) of food and \$4.5 million in cash-based transfers to internally displaced persons (IDP), refugees, and other people in need. However, this figure represents approximately 68 percent of WFP's target for the month, as persistent insecurity across several states obstructed the UN agency's access to populations in need.

### MoH Declares Outbreak of Hepatitis E in Wau

The RTGoNU Ministry of Health (MoH) declared an outbreak of hepatitis E virus in Wau town on April 14. The outbreak had resulted in six deaths and an estimated 135 cases as of April 25, according to the most recent MoH reports. The African Field Epidemiology Network, MoH, and UN World Health Organization (WHO) conducted joint assessments in April to identify the outbreak's origins and evaluate the capacity of authorities to respond, according to WHO. In response, the MoH activated the Public Health Operations Center—MoH's national public health emergency support—and is working with WHO and other health partners to reduce disease transmission. USAID/BHA health partners are implementing case management, outbreak control and response activities, disease surveillance, and WASH services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

#### **KEY FIGURES**

# 1.9 Million

People reached with food and nutrition assistance by WFP in March, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors



People reached with primary health care services in March by UNICEF, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors



Average liters of safe drinking water supplied per day to people in Upper Nile's Malakal Protection of Civilians site in mid-April by USAID/BHA partner IOM

# U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

## **FOOD SECURITY**

USAID/BHA supports multiple UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to bolster early recovery, food security, and livelihood efforts in South Sudan. USAID/BHA partners provide emergency food assistance—including cash transfers for food, regionally and internationally procured commodities, and U.S. in-kind food assistance—to food-insecure households across the country. USAID/BHA continues to support WFP to sustain emergency food assistance as food needs increase in heavily affected areas of South Sudan, while USAID/BHA and State/PRM NGO partners provide agricultural inputs, fishing kits, and livelihood training to support at-risk populations.

#### **HEALTH**

USAID/BHA partners continue to provide health support in South Sudan through community health facilities and mobile medical units (MMUs), which provide a range of maternal, mental, and primary health care services. South Sudan has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the world, and MMUs provide life-saving maternal and newborn health care services to reduce the prevalence of maternal and infant deaths. USAID/BHA also supports integrated community case management services in South Sudan, which deliver life-saving health interventions for common childhood illnesses, particularly in areas with limited access to facility-based services.

To mitigate the effects of infectious disease outbreaks in South Sudan, USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners continue to assist in training local health care workers in infection prevention and control methods, provide support for vaccination campaigns, and strengthen community health coordination. Additionally, State/PRM supports UNHCR and NGOs to address the health care needs of refugees and other vulnerable populations in South Sudan. Health interventions are integrated with nutrition and WASH services wherever possible to promote a comprehensive system of clinical services and support.

#### **WASH**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support partners implementing critical WASH programs, including activities to provide access to safe drinking water, handwashing facilities, sanitation services, and solid waste disposal. Additional WASH programming includes interventions to help prevent cholera outbreaks among vulnerable populations and to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) by providing safe access to latrines, sanitation services, and other WASH facilities. Additionally, USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support efforts by UN and NGO partners to respond to recent flooding throughout South Sudan by rehabilitating WASH infrastructure and providing WASH supplies to flood-affected populations. USAID/BHA also supports hygiene promotion activities through public

health campaigns and the distribution of essential supplies, such as dignity and hygiene kits, soap, and water buckets.



Number of USAID/BHA partners implementing critical protection interventions



MT of humanitarian cargo transported in 2022 by the South Sudan Logistics Cluster, with USAID/BHA support



Children ages 6–59 months identified and treated for severe acute malnutrition in March by UNICEF, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors

#### **PROTECTION**

USAID/BHA supports multi-sector protection interventions that ensure the safety and dignity of vulnerable people in South Sudan. Protection activities include assistance to GBV survivors through case management, mobile emergency response teams, psychosocial support services, and referrals to health specialists, as well as assessments to integrate protection into multi-sector emergency response activities. State/PRM partners also provide protection services to conflict-affected communities, IDPs, and refugees countrywide, including family reunification interventions, GBV prevention and response programs, legal assistance, and mental health and psychosocial support activities. USAID/BHA and State/PRM also support coordination and capacity-building among protection actors in South Sudan.

#### **LOGISTICS**

USAID/BHA and State/PRM provide countrywide support to the humanitarian response through the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics, composed of UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. UNHAS provides air transportation to relief actors throughout the country, while the Logistics Cluster provides coordination and information management services for humanitarian workers, delivery and common warehousing of essential relief commodities, and geographical information system mapping. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner IOM supports humanitarian partner responses across South Sudan by procuring, storing, and transporting critical relief supplies, including emergency shelter and WASH commodities.

### **NUTRITION**

USAID/BHA supports partners to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across South Sudan. USAID/BHA supports NGOs, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and WFP to provide nutrition assistance—including specialized food products to treat wasting—to children and pregnant and lactating women countrywide. Using a community-based approach, USAID/BHA partners promote recommended infant and young child feeding practices through one-on-one counseling and group education to manage wasting.

#### **CONTEXT IN BRIEF**

- The January 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan
  and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Army officially ended more than two decades of
  north—south conflict during which disease, famine, and fighting killed an estimated 2 million people and
  displaced at least 4.5 million others within Sudan. In July 2011, South Sudan became an independent state
  following a referendum earlier in the year.
- On December 15, 2013, clashes erupted between factions within the Government of South Sudan—the
  country's pre-2018 governing body—in the capital city of Juba and quickly spread into a protracted
  national conflict, generating displacement and exacerbating humanitarian needs. On December 20, 2013,
  USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the U.S. Government (USG)
  response to the crisis in South Sudan and stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management
  Team (RMT) to support the DART.
- After nearly seven years, USAID transitioned the South Sudan DART and RMT to a normalized response
  under USAID/BHA on November 6 and November 20, 2020, respectively. USAID/BHA remains
  committed to maintaining a robust humanitarian response in South Sudan, and USAID/BHA partners
  continue to carry out life-saving programs to meet the humanitarian needs of the South Sudanese people.
- On October 5, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Michael J. Adler reissued a declaration of humanitarian need in South Sudan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 due to inflation, ongoing conflict, population displacement, restricted humanitarian access, and severe flooding, all of which have significantly exacerbated food insecurity and humanitarian needs.

### **USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>56</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT		
USAID/BHA					
Action Against Hunger/USA	Agriculture, Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$7,500,000		
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei	\$19,706,056		
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, HCIMA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000		
Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei	\$2,100,000		
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Central Equatoria, GPAA, Jonglei, Upper Nile	\$7,200,000		
IOM	Agriculture, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyei, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Unity, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Western Equatoria	\$14,600,000		
Medair	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	GPAA, Unity, Upper Nile	\$7,700,000		
Mercy Corps	WASH	Unity	\$229,177		
Nonviolent Peaceforce	Protection	Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity, Warrap	\$4,000,000		
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$14,451,438		

Relief International	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Upper Nile	\$6,597,720
Save the Children Federation	HCIMA, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Jonglei	\$5,200,000
Tearfund	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central Equatoria, GPAA, Jonglei	\$5,341,652
UNICEF	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Nutrition; Protection	Countrywide	\$21,500,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Germany (VSF/G)	Agriculture	GPAA, Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile	\$1,906,213
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfer for Food, LRIP, Logistics Support, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$167,500,000
	Food Assistance–U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$145,105,697
WHO	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, GPAA, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Western Equatoria	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$12,636,790
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile	\$5,000,000
	Program Support		\$61,118
TOTAL USAID/BHA FU	NDING		\$466,335,861
	STATE	E/PRM	
International Committee of the Red Cross	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$26,300,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,400,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$1,295,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FU	NDING		\$43,995,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING	FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE I	IN FY 2023	\$510,330,861

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 13, 2023.

### **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>USAID/BHA funding in South Sudan benefitting displaced people from Sudan is also reported in the USG Sudan Complex Emergency Fact Sheet.

- o USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
- o Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work